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Speech delivered by

MR G. D. NAIDU

at the party in honour of

HON'BLE

MR B. GOPAL REDDI

Minister for Finance, Government of Madras,

at the

ARTHUR HOPE POLYTECHNIC HOSTEL

on

1—6—1947

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A pleasant function was arranged in honour of HON'BLE MR B. GOPAL REDDI at the Arthur Hope Polytechnic Hostel, Avanashi Road at 5-30 p. m. on 1—6—1947. After tea, the Minister was garlanded by MR G. D. NAIDU. The Minister was introduced to the guests with all of whom he shook hands cheerfully. Welcoming Hon'ble Mr Gopal Reddi, Mr Naidu said:

Dear Minister and Friends,

I know our Hon'ble Minister for the last ten years. Though I have not closely moved with him for long, I have come to understand him fully well by hearing and seeing his activities. Unless one is a straightforward gentleman, it is impossible for anyone to judge his qualities correctly by merely hearing and seeing his activities without close contact. In general it is very difficult to judge one's character. And if one is deep in mind, it is impossible to judge his character even if one moves with him closely for a whole lifetime. But our Minister is very plain and straightforward in character with great ambition to do some good for his country's youngsters. He has learned and earned very good character-mould under the highest authority on character-moulding – DR R. TAGORE. I neither want to flatter nor bore him. But I have some grievance against him and DR P. SUBBAROYAN. It is their acceptance of the Ministership. In fact

when all friends sent congratulatory letters and telegrams I sent a letter to Dr Subbaroyan asking him why he accepted the heavy responsibility at this improper time and requested him not to fail to resign at the very next immediate opportunity. During the previous Ministry I had asked the same thing to MR V. V. GIRI. I wanted to write to Mr Reddi also as a friend. But I hesitated because Mr Reddi is one of the youngest ministers and he may have more ambition to do some good to his country even if any kind of obstacle comes in his way. The reason for writing such a letter is due to my firm conviction that in the present state of administration with old, worn out and bent machinery, the ministers cannot do any good for the public according to their wishes.

At the present moment it is impossible either to mend the machinery because it is worn out beyond redemption or to replace this administrative machinery immediately as the ministers are in such a dangerous position between the worn out administrative body and unsteady foundation of the party. Unless at least any one side is proper it is impossible for them to do anything good to the public. If we turn to the party or its followers, there also we find unbearable defects. This is admitted even by the leader, the one and only leader, the accredited leader, the Mahatma - MR GANDHI. No doubt, these kinds of undesirable things have grown in the party for a pretty long time. But it took so much time to reach one portion of this truth to the leaders. It will take years together for them to realise the defects.

I really pity my good friends, who have taken such responsibilities at such an unfortunate time and in such an unfortunate place. But there is some credit in it. At such an inopportune time if anyone takes reins of the Government and conducts it properly, it will be appreciated, admired and applauded by everyone. I am sure my friend Mr Reddi will display dare-devil enthusiasm and extraordinary perseverance to achieve his cherished ends. It is the bounden duty of the public to co-operate with him with equal enthusiasm.

I am an extreme opponent of the policy of the Congress except in its one aim of driving out slavishness out of India. We have very nearly achieved this point now, though not fully. But I fear, by seeing the present circumstances, that we may be driven to the undesirable but unavoidable necessity of begging the British Imperialism to remain here to help us for some more time and if they do not comply with our request, then we are going to be slaves to each other here itself. Now in the North Hindus and Muslims are fighting. In South India Brahmans and Non-Brahmans are fighting, though not violently. All over India, Scheduled Castes are organising to fight. This is the result we have achieved from our experience of hundred years of British Imperialism and fifty years of Congress *Satyagraha* and Cottage Industries. Fortunately in our province the Brahman — Non-Brahman movement is going to die, as a matter of fact is already dead. But in case the British are to be here, I am sure, again this split may be broadened. I know and I have seen several Brahman friends who are very

fair without any difference or any partiality. They are living for the country's sake. But a few silly minded people among them are making hatred and creating troubles and becoming dangerous elements for their own community Except such people, in general, they have come to understand this danger to their foundation. Within a very short time everyone will come to know the dangerous position and there will be no difference at all amongst the South Indian people. I remember sometime back this point stressed by SIR C. P. RAMASAMI IYER. He advised all in a Brahmans' Conference held at Salem. Therefore the South Indians need not fear at all for any split or fight or bloodshed particularly in our province.

Two or three days back I heard MR MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM delivering a speech for an audience in which he said directly and indirectly that Congress Capitalism and British Imperialism have joined together and are crushing the Indian living standard. Although I have faith in Socialism in a different way, and although I have faith in a different type of hidden Communism, I have no faith in Russian Communism or the Communism now prevailing amongst our politically and socially illiterate public. I am equally against the present Communism as I am against the Congress. Though we are against one another with regard to some party politics, we have to take the truth from wherever it may come. There are several truths in the speech delivered by Mr Mohan Kumaramangalam. Though the present Government are against Communism, leaving the propaganda matter on one side,

Government must take the real facts that Mr Kumaramangalam stated in his speech and must rectify them. In the same way, though I am an opponent of your policy, you must take the real facts that come from me for rectification.

I assure you that I will never give you any false information or bad advice or prejudiced theories. Mr Mohan Kumaramangalam said that no punishment such as ten or twenty years' rigorous imprisonment was given for blackmarketeers and corruptionists. Is it not a fact? I do not think that even one in a thousand got such punishments. Mr Kumaramangalam said that only the capitalists are blackmarketeers. I agree with him. If any such offence is committed by poor people or labourers one can understand, they could have done only to answer the call of belly and for nothing else. But, if it is done by anybody else, it is only for their own benefit. In my opinion Mr Kumaramangalam's suggestion of punishment is very lenient.

If you bring out a law (scraping out old rules and acts) that punishment for blackmarketeers, corruptionists and hoarders must be ten or twenty years rigorous imprisonment in addition to confiscation of the whole of his individual and family properties instead of passing public safety ordinances and other criminal procedure codes, corruption, blackmarket and hoarding will not be in existence. Though the percentage of illiteracy in our country is more than in any other country, in general they are more sensible than the people of several other countries. They are adapted for hard

rules and they are not for the present philosophical acts and rules. So this is the one fundamental code to be prepared and brought into action before any Government take reins in their hands. Then and only then a Government can govern a nation and make everything as national asset, which automatically results in the entire nationalisation of the country. Before this is done, Government should not dream of nationalising anything. On the other hand, if they try to nationalise anything it may only be termed as the nationalisation of corruption. In fact a pamphlet came out in the form of proof but did not come out in print, because in the meanwhile the Government changed and stopped nationalisation. Perhaps that pamphlet may come out again, if nationalisation is started before making their foundation strong on this basis.

I would like to know two points clearly.

Will you be able to scrap out the old codes and bring a new code as mentioned above?

Will you be able to put down corruption and misbehaviours of the public as well as the Government machinery with the present rules and acts?

If both these are not possible what is the use of the present Government? Is it not better then that the Government is allowed to be run according to Section 93? The first unfortunate defect in the Government at present is that if there is a proper man for a proper work, he will be pushed into an improper or unsuitable work. Your case itself is an example.

When you are more suitable for the development of our country in another fundamental line, you are compelled to be here in this position. Another example is the recent transfer of MR KHALEELI I. C. S., the Director of Industries and Commerce. He is more fit for the development of any kind of industries in our country and it is not possible to find out a more suitable man for this. He is now thrust or allowed into post office work – perhaps for the work of a big head clerk, which is a great loss for our province now. Similarly, several other officers are given works for which they are not suitable. These points are to be considered very keenly and carefully with a broad outlook, leaving aside political prejudices.

Proper people for proper work should be selected irrespective of their caste, creed, religion and nationality. If a policy is adopted by the Congress, that policy is to be executed by proper and able executives. This is the second important defect to be rectified in the present Government. If these two points are rectified, I hope we can say that we are in our own nation, we have our own Government, we have our own people and we have our own workers. Until this is rectified, there will be Congress and Communism and capitalism and labour with their routes in opposite directions. Capitalism and Labour I think will exist for ever in some form or other. But inspite of that, peace can be maintained, standard of life of the common people can be raised, difference of any form can be eradicated, corruption and disruption among the people can be rooted out and strikes can be avoided, if proper steps are taken

and bold plans are hatched out and sincere endeavours are made to rectify the defects, I have mentioned above. I hope you will do your duty as a minister towards the public and will not fail to take such bold steps.

We have people of extraordinary calibre in our Province. But unfortunately due to some reason or other even their existence itself is not known to anyone. Otherwise our Province will top all other Provinces in industry and wealth. In general some difference is growing between Northern India and Southern India. Though the leaders are trying to patch up, I think it cannot be mended up. Perhaps leaders like you may not agree with me. But we people who are mingled with the day to day life and actions can prove this. I can prove that the Central Government do not care for South India.

Some seven or eight years back, MR E. V. RAMASAMI PERIAR started the Dravidasthan propaganda similar to the Pakistan propaganda started by MR M. A. JINNAH. At that time every one here thought that Mr E. V. R. Naicker became a mad old fellow or oldest mad fellow. I too really thought so. Subsequently, DR C. RAJAGOPALACHARI also agreed. Then everyone here started propaganda against both of them. Now, from what we have experienced till now, from what we are seeing now and from what we are going to see hereafter, I can say the principle of Dravidasthan propagated by Mr E. V. R. and supported by Dr C. R. is just and necessary. When everything is recorded and open to the eyes of the public, it is impossible to hide the

facts any longer. Though we don't want and though we are not willing to have Dravidasthan separately, it is thrust on us by others for which we are not responsible.

This I can vouchsafe by any number of examples. I do not want to give examples elaborately except mentioning how many useful laboratories are alloted to Madras Presidency. In fact nothing except leather laboratory and electro-chemical laboratory, which are not so important for this Presidency have been alloted after so much hesitation. Upto this time even in the present boom period of industries, how many industries have been started in South India and how many in Northern India? Apart from this, our Government also are not helping in industrial line except the meagre effort in the sphere taken by the Director of Industries and Commerce. How many post-war plans had been drafted and schemes prepared? I do not know where these files are kept. Perhaps they are filed in the records once for all. For instance, the Government asked me to draft a scheme for starting a concern for manufacturing machine tools, which I submitted two years ago, and I agreed to be the Technical Director for that concern for 5 years. Of course, there were a few correspondences later on. But after that, I heard nothing. Another instance is at the same time a proposal to start a textile machine manufacturing corporation was brought out by some people. But what happened? The directors or the mill-owners of this side are begging a Bombay factory to consider their rights to take them as partners or directors.

Further, motor vehicle manufacturing and assembling factory, diesel engine manufacturing factories and several other industries are floated and are still going to be floated outside the Madras Presidency. But no help is given to Madras. No doubt, our leaders and capitalists also are neglecting. But the Government should not neglect and must take care of machine tool and other allied industries immediately before any other work is undertaken. Otherwise this Province will never come forward. I am sorry to say that the Government are dreaming to nationalise some existing industries leaving the fundamental industries and other urgent needs. I am sorry I have no time to explain or expose these matters here. But my request to you is to fix proper people at proper places for developing our country in all directions. It is your duty to bring back, if any of our able people has gone out of our province. In Government if any executive officer comes out brilliantly, he is either absorbed by other provinces or sent out from this province for some reason or other. Similarly if there is anyone in public, he is looked at differently by the Government, which either send him out of his sphere or discourage him with the help of the public.

An ordinary blacksmith has made a clock with 2' dial 9' high with 2 faces and it is giving perfect time for the last 6 months. The same blacksmith is making another clock with 6' dial and 2 faces. Both the clocks are arranged with electric lights at nights and one of them is designed for automatic winding by current. This man has no drawing instruments, no micrometers and no modern tools. Without

knowing his intelligence or ability for several years, he was working as an ordinary blacksmith on a very meagre salary. Only very recently he was transferred to some other grade and position. He has neither education nor wealth. For another example, a young gentleman MR KARUTHIRUMA GOUNDER of Puliyampatti took up his father's profession of agriculture. For the last few years his fields were giving 3 times more yield of paddy. I have known and heard of similar experts in various lines but unnoticed by anyone. The duty of the Government is to encourage such people by giving all help instead of crushing and discouraging them. Instead of picking out such people what our Government is doing every year is to advertise in papers for selection of candidates for foreign studies.

Young innocent boys, who would have scored good marks in some examination or other are selected and sent to foreign countries, with abnormal expenses of the public money. If the Government give me records I can prove that this is a waste. I heard from Radio upto now more than 400 students had been sent to foreign countries. I do not know still how many will be sent. No doubt, a few suitable persons have also been selected and sent for which we have to thank the Government. By sending students to foreign countries not only the majority of them are spoilt by picking up 5% of the education we require, and 95% of the experience that we do not require, but also after coming here they spoil hundreds of youngsters. Hence, the proper course is that after selecting the students for a particular group of education, they must work here

in that line for 2 to 5 years. Then, if they go to foreign countries, they will be able to pick out the materials and methods useful for us within 1/10 or 1/20 of the time the student has to spend under the existing arrangements. Still it will be better to get experts here to train our youngsters at any extra cost instead of students going to foreign countries with enormous expenses. One expert can train hundreds of youngsters every year. If you, as Minister for Finance, take steps to stop this kind of wastage, you will not only be saving exorbidant expenses, but also saving the future of the youngsters. I am sorry, till now the Government did not take this simple mathematics and simple theory even though they are experiencing and seeing them in practice. Besides spoiling themselves and others, these people become a hindrance for the development of our nation.

At present the educational system above High School, which is College Course is not profitable. So the present Colleges are not Colleges of profits, but Colleges of losses. As the Minister for Finance, if you abolish these Colleges of losses and if you are able to make them as Colleges of profits, there won't be any financial difficulty at any time. I am sorry I have no time to explain here how to transform the Colleges of losses into Colleges of profits. Hence the entire system of education should be changed for making our youngsters useful citizens, on which the development of our country depends. Apart from these losses, you can avoid wastage in several departments such as P. W. D., Excise, Textile, Revenue, Police, Taxation etc. If I

say here that hospitals too are to be abolished to avoid waste, everyone here will mock at me. But there are other methods in place of hospitals for saving the national wealth and to keep up health in a high level. Further, in the name of Central Government, enormous amount goes to the North under Excise, Customs, Income tax etc. In return we get back 1/4th or even less than 1/4th of what we pay as per figures mentioned yesterday (Saturday) at the Rotary Club meeting. I am sorry to see the minister's satisfaction in having received one crore or so more than last year from the Income tax pool. But this is not even 1/4th of the amount that is going from here to North. Apart from this, by several other means 3/4 of the cream and butter are moving north every day leaving only the butter-milk for our consumption in every walk of life. Every one of us is seeing and experiencing this every day in industries or in business or in recent army auctions which can be styled as high way robbery designed by and for some people.

I want to mention one more point here. For the last few months we hear speeches and lectures from several sources about nationalisation. Due to the reasons mentioned in the very beginning, it is impossible for the Government even to dream nationalising anything at the present stage. Of course, labour in discontended and capitalists contended. For both, the reason is the war boon. Shareholders and capitalists have already got return for their investments. Labour also have got something more than what they were getting. But this is not sufficient for them. On account of this

unbalanced state of food production and the introduction of Labour Act and Factory Act, which is not at all suitable in the present form for our country and the inefficient administrative machinery at this moment, nationalisation cannot be thought of. Business cannot be left entirely in the hands of the capitalists. The only medium is to remove the present Factory Act and Labour Act and to have a control by the Government for the business with the co-operation of labour and capitalists. The profit also should be divided equally among capital holders, Government and labourers, i. e., one third of the profit for each. It may sound strange. But I had discussions with a number of people on this basis. Except one or two all others agreed that this is the best medium for the development of industry and to avoid criticism, strike and such other troubles. Though most of them agreed, they refused to push through the scheme because of shyness or fear. If Government can take this course, I am sure there will be great success.

Now for my request – as Minister for Finance – I ask you for some help for the Arthur Hope Polytechnic. I want to emphasise here that the best foundation for National Government and for nationalising anything and to safeguard sound financial status of a country, the only way is to bring up the youngsters with proper industrial education in agriculture and engineering lines under proper guidance. For this, several Polytechnics have been started within the last 3 years in which the Arthur Hope Polytechnic was the first one. In other institutes several courses such as Civil Engineering,

Sound Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Automobile Engineering, Radio Engineering etc., are introduced. As the first Polytechnic, in this institute only Automobile and Radio Engineering courses were introduced. Automobile Engineering is a diploma course and Radio Engineering a certificate course. It will not be out of place if I say here, that amongst all Polytechnics, this Polytechnic is maintained with the lowest expenditure. At present I am not able to say anything about the efficiency as we have to wait for some more time; but I have received information that out of 22 students, 21 have secured pass who appeared for the final examination in this year.

My present request to you is to sanction finance for the introduction of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering courses apart from the existing courses. Further, in order to give facilities for more number of students, all the 4 courses must be two years' diploma course and one year certificate course. For Automobile and Radio Engineering, I have already sent proposals and for the other subjects, I am sending now. If the Minister is kind enough he can sanction finance immediately so as to select students in the beginning of next academic year. Of course, Government may raise objection saying that no proposal or scheme has been drafted and passed yet. It is not a difficult problem to draft a proposal within a week's time and get sanction. They may also say that equipments are not available. I am prepared to have the entire equipment within 30 days from the date of your approval. Perhaps even you may say that it is not

possible and that this is not in your portfolio. But I have already done it in the case of Arthur Hope College of Technology; within 42 days I have provided place and preliminary equipments. In the same way I can provide even better facilities within 30 days. No doubt, it is very difficult to accommodate all these courses. There is a proposal to shift this Polytechnic to where the Madukkarai regiment was stationed. Though it may take some time, I will manage somehow or other even placing my residence which will be more than enough for this purpose. Whenever you wanted a portfolio in the Ministry you can get it and whenever you are disgusted you can leave it in a moment's notice. I think this is the best opportunity for you to do some substantial work by according sanction for this as a Finance Minister.

I have experience that when one Party Government start some scheme unfortunately another party comes to power and that party changes the scheme whether it is bad or good. Perhaps you will remember a decade back, I offered the whole of my business, worth at that time nearly Rs. 18 lakhs, to the District Board in order to utilise the profits for industrial education. When they declined I offered to all the Municipalities in the district and the Municipalities too refused due to party politics. Then I arranged a dinner in your honour and invited all the chairmen and commissioners of Municipalities and explained in your presence a scheme to take up this business by all the Municipalities and to utilise the benefit of the business for the industrial education of the youngsters

of the district. There were 2 or 3 proposals and you advised to choose one – the best scheme. But except one, all the other municipalities refused. I clearly mentioned that I did not want any profit. It is a pity, that they refused such an offer. At that time I did not offer to the Government. But now I offer to help you and I hope you will accept my help. I hope before I spend or exhaust my energy, you will do this. Before I take any work drastically in the industrial development or destruction, I will have the satisfaction of completing at least this work.

I have not brought any subject here as a criticism or as an advice. I have brought only the facts I have heard and known. I hope you will not misunderstand me and will consent to my request as it is not for my personal benefit, but for the sake of this town and this Presidency. I also hope you will not treat this with the difference as Tamil Nad, Andhra Desa or Kerala. I say this as I have seen in the previous histories. Though I have dragged the speeches into violent feelings, I hope to get victory from our Finance Minister besides himself securing a victory. Is it not a wonder in a fight, to get victory by both since the victory in this case we are going to get from our minister's reply by agreeing with my proposals and saying "I do it", without any other usual phraseology as "I will try", "I will do my best within my power" or similar phrases? We both shall win. With this, I close, thanking the Minister for coming over here for this party and also thanking all present here for having responded to my invitation.

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As it was already late and as the Minister had to go to Trichinopoly, he didn't make a speech. He shook hands with Mr Naidu and saying "yes, you have succeeded in your request", Hon'ble Mr Gopal Reddi left by car for Trichinopoly.